



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

August 16, 2007

### **H.R. 1254** **Presidential Library Donation Reform Act of 2007**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Homeland Security  
and Governmental Affairs on August 1, 2007*

H.R. 1254 would require any organization that raises funds for a Presidential library to disclose the sources and amounts of such funds on a quarterly basis. The legislation would apply to donations of \$200 or greater while the current President is in office and during the period before the federal government takes possession of the library. After the federal government takes possession of the library, this reporting requirement would continue for any donations of \$1,250 or more during the President's lifetime. Additionally, H.R. 1254 would require fund-raising organizations to provide this information to the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) and the Congress. The legislation would direct NARA to make this information public in a freely available searchable database. Finally, H.R. 1254 would establish criminal penalties, including fines, for violations of its provisions.

Based on information from NARA, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 1254 would cost \$1 million in 2008 and about \$5 million over the 2008-2012 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts. That estimate assumes NARA would spend \$1 million in 2008 to establish the proposed database and \$800,000 annually thereafter to update and maintain it. We also estimate that any increases in federal spending for law enforcement, court proceedings, or prison operations related to criminal violations under H.R. 1254, which would be subject to appropriation, would be insignificant.

Enacting the legislation could affect direct spending and receipts, but we estimate that any impact would not be significant. Because those prosecuted and convicted under H.R. 1254 could be subject to criminal fines, the federal government might collect additional fines if the legislation is enacted. Collections of such fines are recorded in the budget as revenues, which are deposited in the Crime Victims Fund and later spent. CBO expects that any additional receipts and direct spending under H.R. 1254 would be negligible because of the small number of cases involved.

H.R. 1254 contains no intergovernmental mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

H.R. 1254 would impose a private-sector mandate, as defined in UMRA, on organizations established for the purpose of raising funds for a Presidential library. The legislation would require those organizations to submit quarterly reports to the Administration and certain Congressional committees detailing the sources and amounts of certain contributions they receive. The reports would have to be submitted for a period of time as determined by conditions in the legislation. The cost for such organizations to report the mandated information would be minimal. CBO estimates, therefore, that the direct cost of the mandate would fall well below the annual threshold established by UMRA for private-sector mandates (\$131 million in 2007, adjusted annually for inflation).

On March 9, 2007, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 1254 as ordered reported by the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform on March 8, 2007. The two versions of the legislation are substantively similar, and our estimates of impacts on the federal budget and the private sector are the same.

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Matthew Pickford (for federal costs) and Paige Piper/Bach (for the private-sector impact). This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.